



September 2011

[Nebraska Department of Education](#)

Office of Multicultural/Native
American Education

www.education.ne.gov/mce

Whose Hero Are You?

"There is no passion to be found in playing small—in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

~Nelson Mandela

Editorial by Carol Remp



About a month ago the cover story of *Indian Country Today* featured American Indian Code Talkers from World War I and World War II. The article discussed how these heroic men, from many tribes, secretly helped the United States to win both of these wars. It was actually many years after the wars before anyone learned about what these men did because their service was classified. However, they are now finally being recognized for their heroic service by both the United States government and their tribes.

These men are truly heroes. We recently commemorated the 9/11 attacks on our country. Those commemorations included remembering the police officers, firemen and rescue workers who died doing heroic deeds in the at-

tempt to save the lives of many, many people. We also remembered the many military heroes who have given their lives in service to our country in the wars that have resulted from 9/11 and those military men and women who are currently serving. Truly these people can be considered heroes.

But my question to you as educators is whose hero are you? Do you have to rescue people from a burning building or serve in a war zone to be a hero? Or is it possible to be a hero because you helped a child learn to read? Can you be a hero if you helped an athlete learn or become better at a sport? What about the drama, speech or music teacher who helps a young person overcome stage fright—is she a hero? I would

challenge you at a time when we are so closely connected to our reflections of heroism in our country to reflect on your classroom, school, family and community. Look around and see "whose hero are you?" We *ARE* all heroes to someone... take notice and celebrate both yourself and the heroes around you.

For more information about the code talkers visit these sites:

Nmai.si.edu/education/codetalkers
Navajocodetalkers.org

Indian Country Today articles:
"Heroes in Word and Deed"
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianet-work.com/2011/08/code-talkers-have-served-the-military-well%e2%80%94and-often-secretly/>

"The Last of the Original 29"
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianet-work.com/2011/08/at-90-chester-nez-keeps-alive-the-story-of-navajo-code-talkers/>





"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'!"

—Audrey Hepburn



Large Number of K-3 Students Miss Weeks of School

Education Week

Rebecca Harris, Catalyst Chicago

September 9, 2011

Full article: <http://www.edweek> (excerpts)

Missing so much class time takes an educational toll, at a time when children, especially low-income students—at Revere, 98 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch—need to get a good academic start. Revere Principal Veronica Thompson notes that, as kindergarteners from the last two years have gone on to 2nd and 1st grade, those with the worst attendance “are definitely not as prepared.”

Experts note that school attendance habits are set early on, so a pattern of missing classes in the primary grades makes it far more likely that students will have academic—and social—problems later on. Since low-income students are absent the most often, and the effects for these children can be devastating.

Are your parents aware of the Student-Friendly Language Arts Standards?

On September 6, the Nebraska Department of Education showcased a powerful tool for parents grades K through 12.

Standards are developed so parents and students understand what the teacher expects. Guide brochures are available for all grades. These guides will help the parents understand the expectations.

Visit and download parent informational brochures . <http://www.education.ne.gov/read/StudentFriendlyStandards/StudentFriendlyStandardsMain.html>

Or (Language Arts and Math)

<http://www.education.ne.gov/AcademicStandards/SIT/>

WORSE THAN AVERAGE

Nationally, about 11 percent of kindergarteners, 9 percent of 1st-grade students and 6 percent of 3rd-grade students are chronically absent according to the National Center for Children in Poverty. As in many urban districts, the rates in Chicago are higher.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WHERE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IS WORSE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN...

Kindergarten	240
1st Grade	165
2nd Grade	124
3rd Grade	175

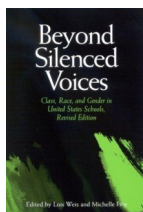
Note: The average 1st-grade absenteeism rate, 9 percent, was used for 2nd grade because no 2nd-grade statistic was available.

Source: Chicago Public Schools, 2009-10.

A study completed in Baltimore researched and developed national a list of why students miss school other than illness.

- ✓ Poor transportation
- ✓ Fears of personal safety
- ✓ Disengagement
- ✓ Unwelcoming schools
- ✓ School policies that push them out
- ✓ Family problems
- ✓ Work problems

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/baltimore/articles_publications/articles/summary_20080921/whitepapersummary_20080919.pdf



Beyond Silenced Voices: Class, Race, and Gender in United States Schools

Editors: Weis, Lois and Fine, Michelle

ISBN 0791464628

2006 AESA Critics Choice Awards. Resting on the belief that educators must be at the center of informing education policy, the contributors to this revised edition of the classic text raise tough questions that will both haunt and invigorate pre- and in-service educators, as well as veteran teachers. They explore the policies and practices of structuring exclusions; they listen hard to youth living at the margins of race, class, ethnicity, and gender; and they wrestle with fundamental inequalities of space in order to educate for change. Written from the perspective of researchers, policy analysts, teachers, and youth workers, the book reveals a shared belief in education that "could be," and a shared concern about schools that currently reproduce class, race and gender relations, and privilege.

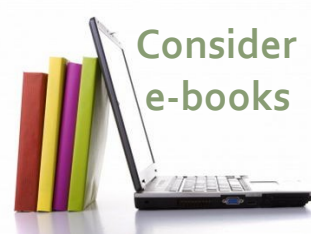


Ain't No Makin' It: Aspiration and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood

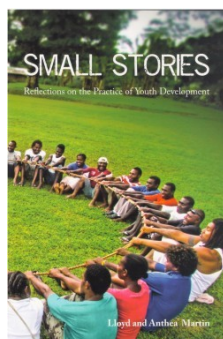
MacLeod, Jay

ISBN: 0813343585

This classic text addresses one of the most important issues in modern social theory and policy: how social inequality is reproduced from one generation to the next. Their story of poverty, race, and defeatism moved readers and challenged ethnic stereotypes. MacLeod's return eight years later, and the resulting 1995 revision, revealed little improvement in the lives of these men as they struggled in the labor market and crime-ridden underground economy.



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Small Stories: Reflections on the Practice of Positive Youth Development

Lloyd and Anthea Martin

The authors draw on decades of experience in teaching and youth work with indigenous teens and families. A power of narrative to convey deep truths hidden beneath troubling statistics and diagnostic labels.

Read more at ReclaimingYouthInternational.com

www.ahaprocess.com/ebooks

Link to download



"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." —David Bly

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, which was observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. The observance was expanded in 1988 by Congress to a month long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), effective the following year. America celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

(from www.census.gov)

Nebraska schools see a large increase in the Hispanic populations. Visit the interactive maps for each culture at our multicultural website. Direct links to schools, their own webpage and their State of the Schools Report. <http://www.education.ne.gov/mce/Map.html>



Nebraska experiences a 77.3% growth in Hispanic population since 2010

The Latino American Commission with the State of Nebraska reported a growth of 77.3% Hispanic from 2000 to 2010. This was the largest growth of any racial group within the state. A county listing map is located on their website showing the growth and population.

<http://www.latinoac.nebraska.gov/>

Resource Lists

Smithsonian Education Resources:

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/hhm/

National Education Association resources for celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month:

<http://www.nea.org/home/16772.htm>

PBS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month:

<http://www.theventureonline.com/2011/08/pbs-hispanic-heritage-201/>

National Hispanic Heritage Month resource page:

<http://hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

Resources from Scholastic:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hispanic/index.htm>

Hispanic Heritage Month on Biography.com:

<http://www.biography.com/hispanic-heritage/index.jsp>

Teacher Vision resources:

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/hispanic-heritage-month/south-america/6629.html>

Hispanic Heritage Month Suggested Reading List as recommended by the Florida Department of Education:

<http://www.justreadfamilies.org/Reading/HHM.asp>

Listings for PreK-2, grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and adult. Sample from the list:

Doña Flor, Pat Mora (PreK-2)
Where the Flame Trees Bloom, Alma Flor Ada (Gr 3-5)
Crossing the Wire, Will Hobbs (Gr 6-8)
Journey of the Sparrows, Fran Leeper Buss (Gr 9-12)
The Line of the Sun, Judith Ortiz Cofer (adult)




- ✓ Explore the National Register of Historic Places and learn about Hispanic History in America:
<http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/hispanic/>
- ✓ The Law Library of Congress provides all the legal history of Hispanic Heritage Month:
<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/hispanic-heritage.php>
- ✓ Hispanic Heritage Month FREE power points for all grade levels:
<http://holidays.pppst.com/hispanic-heritage-month.html>

5th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month
 State Commemoration Essay Contest

**“Keeping the Promise: Unity, Strength,
 Leadership”**

Sponsored by the Nebraska Latino American Commission
 Deadline: September 30th.

Entry forms and criteria on our website: www.education.ne.gov/mce



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ESSAY CONTEST



"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

—Harry S. Truman

Nebraska Department of Education/Multicultural Education Presents

Teacher Workshop and Screening

October 3, 2011

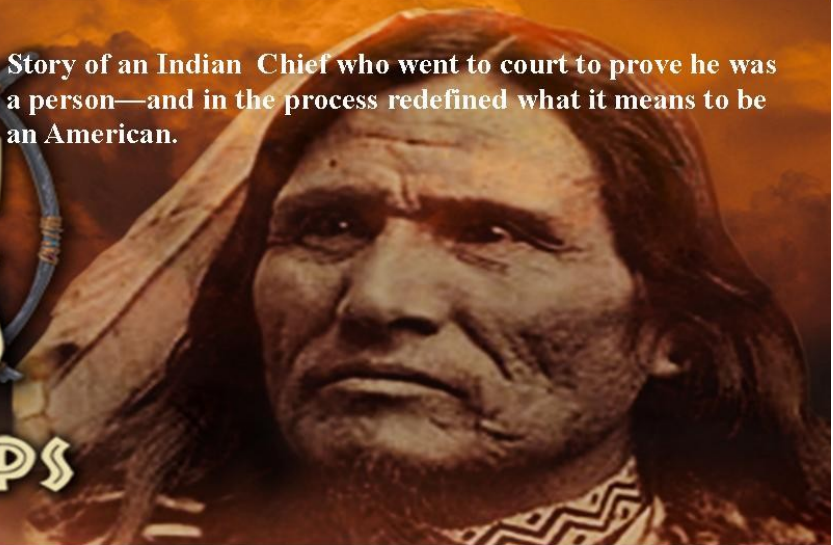
Teacher Workshop: 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

Documentary Screening: 7:00 pm-8:00 pm



STANDING BEAR'S FOOTSTEPS

Story of an Indian Chief who went to court to prove he was a person—and in the process redefined what it means to be an American.



Merryman Performing Arts Theatre

225 West 22nd Street, Kearney Nebraska

Workshop Presenter:

Carol Rempp

Nebraska Department of Education



Meet

Princella Parker

Associate Producer

of Standing Bear's Footsteps

Who Should Attend

Elementary teachers
Language Arts teachers
Social Studies teachers
Media Specialists
Curriculum Specialists

Deadline: September 28

Cost: FREE

(light supper provided)

Limited seating

Pre-Registration Required

Register with your name and school
to peg.kirby@nebraska.gov

Goals:

1. Provide an opportunity to see what educational resources NAPT provides.
2. Provide attendees an opportunity to discuss how to use innovative ways to meet Nebraska State Standards and integrate Native American culture into the curriculum.

Workshop/Screening Sponsors





Photo courtesy of UNMC

Highlights

- ✓ \$1.3 million awarded to strengthen math and science
- ✓ University of Nebraska Medical Center received the Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA)
- ✓ Students from reservations in Nebraska (Santee) and South Dakota attended camp
- ✓ Program aim to strengthen math and science curriculum among Native American students.
- ✓ High school students will implement a summer research experience and two garden initiatives, on in Santee Nebraska with the Santee Sioux Tribe.
- ✓ Garden initiatives will promote healthy eating habits.
- ✓ Reaching beyond the classroom to parents and communities is critical according to Dr. Maurice Godfrey of UNMC.

Camp Boosts Science Literacy Among Native American Youth

Indian Country Today, July 15, 2011

Entire article can be read by

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/07/camp-boosts-science-literacy-among-native-american-youth/>



Native American Advisory Councils September 28, 2011 April 18, 2012

DSL System meetings

Sites: Chadron, Scottsbluff, Norfolk, Lincoln, and ESU 1 (Wakefield)

For additional sites contact

Julie Downing at ESU 13

(jdowning@esu13.org) or Carol Rempp

at Nebraska Department of Education
(carol.rempp@nebraska.gov).

8th Annual Hispanic/Latino Education Summit!

Nebraska Department of Education

Registration is limited to 600, register NOW

at <http://latinosummit.org/>

Monday, September 26, 2011

Embassy Suites - LaVista, NE



We are pleased to announce the 2011 Summit sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with the Latino American Commission. This year's Summit will be held on **September 26, 2011** in Omaha, Nebraska at the Embassy Suites Conference Center, just off I-80 at exit 442. The 2011 Summit purpose is to provide information for students and staff on the importance of graduating and how to graduate career or college ready.

Those invited to participate are school staff and their students. We are encouraging youth attendance by providing informational sessions on opportunities for post-secondary experiences. This website will provide more information as it becomes available. We hope you will view the website and consider attending.



"One person with a belief is equal to a force of ninety-nine who have only interests."
—Peter Marshall

9 Systemic Processes To Raise Student Achievement



Nebraska Native American Education Symposium

October 31, 2011 > 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. > Wayne State College

Hosted by the Nebraska Department of Education and ESU 1.

Keynote Speakers from aha! Processes

Full day sessions. You must select K-6 or 7-12 session when registering.

This is a hands-on workshop where you will be able to walk into your classroom the following day with new, effective tools to use. Learn the nine teacher-friendly processes that are designed to raise student achievement. Simpler processes are key to this collegial model that is designed to take less time and yield strong results. Using the book, *Researched Based Strategies* and the workbook *9 Systemic Processes to Raise Achievement*, our presenters will walk clients through a model that creates sustainable excellence. Especially excellent for low performing schools, schools with demographic shifts, schools with students from poverty, and schools struggling to meet AYP with specific subgroups.



Kim D. Ellis
Presenter for K-6



Beverly Ray
Presenter for 7-12

Limited Registration: Deadline October 1, 2011

Registration is strictly limited to 200 participants per presenter. No exceptions. Registration will be a first come basis. Confirmations will be sent by October 10. Nebraska Department of Education will offer a waiting list for registrations.

COST: \$25 material fee per person (ESU 1 will invoice your school district or business.) Include all staff on one purchase order.

Recommended Audience

- K-12 classroom teacher
- Administrators
- NDE staff,
- ESU staff
- Guidance counselors
- School personnel directly involved in instruction of students.

How to register*



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ESU #1

Group and individual registration forms are available online at www.education.ne.gov/mce. Print and complete forms. To submit, use one of the following methods.

1. Fax registration form and purchase order to Peg Kirby at 402-471-8127
2. Scan in registration form and purchase order and email to peg.kirby@nebraska.gov
3. Mail registration form and purchase order

Peg Kirby
Nebraska Dept of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln NE 68509

CLASSROOM/SCHOOL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
<p><u>Get Kids Fit (part of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation)</u> What is your school doing right now to stay fit and healthy? (150 word max) Why does your school need help to do more? (150 word max) How do you think your school could put \$10,000 to good fitness use? (150 word max)</p> <p>Relevance to topic – <i>Does the essay provide answers and solutions to how your school can benefit from the award?</i> Originality – <i>Is your idea or approach innovative and new? Does the essay make us raise our eyebrows and get excited?</i> Inspiration – <i>Does your essay make us want to do something that could positively affect the school community at large?</i> http://www.henkelhelps.com/default.aspx</p>	\$10,000		10/10/2011
<p><u>Lowe's Toolbox for Education</u> Lowe's Toolbox for Education grants fund school improvement projects initiated by parents in recognition of the importance of parental involvement in education. http://toolboxforeducation.com/</p>	\$5,000 maximum	K-12 schools (including charter, parochial, private, etc.) or parent groups (associated with a non-profit K-12 school).	10/14/2011
<p><u>American School Board/ Sodexo: Magna Awards</u> The American School Board/ Sodexo Magna Awards honor outstanding programs developed or supported by school boards that showcase school district leadership, creativity, and commitment to student achievement. http://www.asbj.com/magna/</p>	\$5,000 maximum		10/31/2011
<p><u>State Farm Foundation: Grants</u> Safe Neighbors (safety), Strong Neighborhoods (community development), and Education Excellence (education). http://www.statefarm.com/about/part_spos/grants/cogrants.asp</p>	varies	Nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3	10/31/2011
<p><u>NCTM: Engaging Students in Learning Mathematics Grants for Grades 6-8 Teachers</u> The National Council of the Teachers of Mathematics Engaging Students in Learning Grants are given to incorporate middle school classroom materials or lessons that actively engage students in tasks and experiences to deepen and connect their content knowledge. Materials may be in the form of books, visual displays, slide shows, videotapes, or other appropriate media. The focus of these materials should be on showing the connectivity of mathematics to other fields or to the world around us. Materials may not be calculators, computers, or related equipment. Proposals must address one or more of the Content Standards: number and operations, geometry, measurement, algebra; plan for developing and evaluating materials; and the anticipated impact on students' learning. http://www.nctm.org/resources/content.aspx?id=1320</p>	\$3,000	Eligibility: current (as of October 14, 2011) Full Individual or E-Members of NCTM or those teaching at a school with a current (as of October 14, 2011) NCTM PreK-8 school membership who teach mathematics in grades 6-8 at least 50 percent of the school day	11/11/2011
<p><u>Libri Foundation: Books for Children</u> The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books for small, rural, public libraries across the country. http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html</p>	varies	Libraries in a rural area, limited operating budget, and an active children's department. The average total operating budget of a Books for Children grant recipient must be less than \$40,000	1/23/2012



"There is more to life than increasing it's speed."
—Mahatma Gandhi

TEACHER/EDUCATOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES	Award	Eligibility	Deadline
<u>The Leavey Awards for Excellence</u> in Private Enterprise Education honor outstanding educators who excite a commitment in their students to the free enterprise system and unleash the entrepreneurial skills of their students at the elementary, junior high school, high school, and college level. http://www.freedomfoundation.org/Leavy-Awards.cfm	\$15,000 maximum	U.S. citizens or permanent residents employed full-time as an educator at an accredited American school (grades K-12), college, or university.	11/1/2011
<u>NSTA/Vernier Software & Technology: Vernier Technology Awards</u> National Science Teachers Association Vernier Technology Awards recognize the innovative use of data collection technology using a computer, graphing calculator, or handheld in the science classroom. *Maximum award: \$1,000 toward expenses to attend the NSTA National Conference, \$1,000 in cash for the teacher, and \$1,000 in Vernier products. http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx?lid=tnavhp#vernier	\$1,000*	Teachers of science grades K-College	11/30/2011
<u>AAPT: High School Physics Teachers Grants</u> American Association of Physics Teachers High School Physics Teachers Grants enable high school physics teachers to compete for small grants that will support innovative physics programs or activities that seek to increase student enrollment or to enhance student achievement in physics. http://www.aapt.org/Programs/grants/hsgrant.cfm	\$500 maximum	high school physics teachers who are AAPT	12/1/2011

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